

# iSchool Research Showcase

2026

**The University of Texas at Austin**

February 27, 2026

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Texas Union Building (UNB), Santa Rita Suite & Quadrangle Room



# About the Showcase

The iSchool Research Showcase spotlights ongoing and transformative research at the intersection of Information, Technology, and People. This event reflects the wide-ranging scholarship of the iSchool community, encompassing theoretical, methodological, and applied research that examines how information, technology, and human systems intersect and evolve.

The 2026 program features two faculty panels, *Computational Social Science and Critical Perspectives on Technology and AI* and *Civic Discourse and AI for Access, Education, and Memory*, bringing together iSchool faculty experts to examine pressing questions at the forefront of research and practice. In addition, the Showcase includes research demos and poster presentations from iSchool students, faculty, and researchers.



## Event Schedule

| Time          | Activity                         | Location         |
|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 8:30 - 9:00   | Check-in and Registration        | Santa Rita Suite |
| 9:00 - 9:30   | Demos, Posters, and Refreshments | Santa Rita Suite |
| 9:30 - 10:15  | Welcome Remarks and Panel 1      | Quadrangle Room  |
| 10:15 - 11:00 | Demos, Posters, and Refreshments | Santa Rita Suite |
| 11:00 - 11:45 | Panel 2 and Closing Remarks      | Quadrangle Room  |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Refreshments and Networking      | Santa Rita Suite |

## Computational Social Science and Critical Perspectives on Technology and AI



**Matt Lease**  
Moderator



**Angela D. R. Smith**  
Panelist



**Nathan TeBlunthuis**  
Panelist



**Hanlin Li**  
Panelist

### Matthew Lease | Moderator

Matthew Lease is a Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool), a Distinguished Member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and a Senior Member of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). He also serves as CosmicAI Co-Director and is a faculty founder and leader of Good Systems. Recent honors include the 2024 AAAI HCOMP Test of Time Award, the 2024 IEEE/ACM ASE Most Influential Paper Award, and a ACM CSCW 2024 Honorable Mention. Beyond scholarship, Lease has also informed responsible AI policy at state and national levels: <https://bridgingbarriers.utexas.edu/news/good-systems-great-policy>. For more information, please visit <https://mattlease.com/>.

#### Research Areas:

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI4Science

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

### Angela D.R. Smith | Panelist

#### Race, Justice, and the Future of Design: Critical Perspectives on Technology and Community

Angela D. R. Smith is an Assistant Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool). Her research sits at the intersection of Critical Computing, Social Computing, and Anti-racist Design within Human-Computer Interaction, Computer-Supported Cooperative Work, and Information Sciences. Grounded in Critical Race Theory, Black Feminist Thought, and Intersectionality, her work investigates how community-driven participatory methods can disrupt dominant technological narratives and create more equitable socio-technical systems. This theoretical foundation enables her to produce analytic, theoretical, and pragmatic contributions that deepen HCI's understanding of how information and communication technologies may foster or inhibit social change. Through qualitative, participatory design methods, she seeks to co-construct knowledge and conscientization, and to design interventions that support historically marginalized groups in pursuing emancipatory transformations. Her work has been supported by Google Research Awards and the National Science Foundation. For more information, please visit <https://angeladrsmith.com/>.

#### Research Areas:

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

Racial Equity in Computing

Critical Consciousness

Flourishing & Liberatory Design

### Nathan TeBlunthuis | Panelist

#### Computational Social Science and Information Ecosystems

Nathan TeBlunthuis is an Assistant Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool). Nathan is driven to understand and improve how people design and organize to create quality public information goods on platforms such as Wikipedia, Reddit, and alternative social media. Theoretically, he draws from Organizational Sociology and Communication. Methodologically, he uses data science and computational methods, grounding measurement and interpretation in qualitative research and engagement with communities of practice. He has contributed new understandings of online community lifecycles, why people build ecosystems of overlapping online communities, non-experimental methods for evaluating how AI systems change content moderation practice, and statistical methods that ground AI classification of data in human interpretations. His ongoing projects investigate how Wikipedia's policies became institutionalized, Wikipedia's relationships with external information sources, critical mass dynamics in online collaboration, and the sociotechnical co-evolution of AI and online communities. For more information, please visit <https://teblunthuis.cc/>.

#### Research Areas:

Data Science

Peer Production

Communication

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

Online Communities

## Panel 1 Cont... | 9:30 - 10:15 | Quadrangle Room

### Hanlin Li | Panelist

#### The Labor Cost of AI

Hanlin Li is an Assistant Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool). Her research aims to inform policy and design interventions to incentivize responsible data collection and use. She examines the societal and economic impact of data generated by the public, from rating data to social media comments. Her work sits at the intersection of data governance and human-computer interaction. Li holds a Ph.D. in Technology and Social Behavior from Northwestern University. She publishes in ICWSM, ACM CHI, ACM CSCW, and ACM FAccT. Her work has been covered by national and international media outlets, including NY Times, The Washington Post, and MIT Tech Review. For more information, please visit <https://www.hanlinli.com/>.

#### Research Areas:

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

Data Governance

Online Communities

## Panel 2 | 11:00 - 11:45 | Quadrangle Room

### Civic Discourse and AI for Access, Education, and Memory



Ying Ding  
Moderator



Brian McInnis  
Panelist



Earl Huff Jr.  
Panelist



Stephen Slota  
Panelist

### Ying Ding | Moderator

Dr. Ying Ding is Bill & Lewis Suit Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool). She co-chairs AI in Health Lab at School of Information and Dell Medical School at UT Austin. She has collaborated widely with researchers in healthcare and drug discovery. Together with her colleague at Dell Medical School, the AI Health Lab aims to build human-centered AI approaches to deliver better health. Her lab is actively developing and applying chatbot to facilitate medical communication and counseling, LLM on drug combination synergy prediction, visual question answer for pathology images, medical annotation for social determinants of health, and LLM hallucination and uncertainty quantification for agentic AI in healthcare. Furthermore, her lab also focuses on developing deep learning method for medical imaging diagnosis, applying Natural Language Processing (NLP) for medical note annotation and summary, utilizing explainable AI and knowledge graph for health risk prediction, and understanding AI fairness in healthcare. She has published 350+ papers, chaired 40+ workshops, and served as a Program Committee member for 280+ international conferences. Her lab is supported by NIH, NSF, and major industry partners. For more information, please visit <https://yingding.ischool.utexas.edu/>.

#### Research Areas:

AI Healthcare

### Brian McInnis | Panelist

#### Way Back when we used to comment on the news: Opportunities for Civic Discourse Infrastructure

Brian McInnis is an Assistant Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool). Brian investigates the capability of computing systems to coordinate groups of people to problem-solve civic issues through informed discussion. This work involves a broad range of research methods, from system design and evaluation to expert interviews, data science, design speed-dating, as well as public policy analysis. Brian really enjoys asking students, "what civic issues matter to you?" and then working with them to explore socio-technical systems questions, like: (1) Where do people go to share experiences of this issue? (2) How have technologies helped to advance conversation about the issue? (3) What human labor and other resources are necessary to facilitate these conversations? For more information, please visit <https://bmcinnis.github.io/>.

#### Research Areas:

Civic Engagement

Online Deliberation

Crowdsourcing

Education Policy

## Earl Huff Jr. | Panelist

AI for Education, Access, and Empowerment. But, at What Cost?

Earl Huff Jr. is an Assistant Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool). He researches the social and technological barriers to equitable and accessible technology use by underserved and marginalized communities, in particular, individuals with disabilities and older adults. Leveraging participatory and interaction design methods, Earl designs, develops, and evaluates solutions addressing identified barriers. His latest research focuses on developing and evaluating AI-powered chatbots to promote Generative AI literacy among adults aged 65 and older. Additionally, Earl is investigating the use of AI as assistive technology for people with disabilities in education, assessing the potential benefits and pitfalls of its application. His secondary research looks at the design, implementation, and deployment of interventions for increasing the awareness, interest, and self-efficacy of K-16 students in pursuing careers in user experience (UX) design and research. Earl's interested in teaching students inclusive design principles to inform the development of more inclusive products, with a primary focus on accessible user experiences. For more information, please visit <https://earlhuffjr.com>

### Research Areas:

Human-Centered Computing

Accessibility

Computing Education

AI for Education

## Stephen Slota | Panelist

Generativity and Memory: GenAI as textual archive

Stephen C. Slota is an Assistant Professor in UT Austin's School of Information (iSchool). Stephen's research in Social Informatics bridges critical infrastructure studies, data and information ethics, and information policy. His research focuses on advancing our shared understanding of how to leverage technology for social good by critically engaging with the role of information technology in policy, in the development of knowledge infrastructures for the sciences, and in the ethics of data and information in people's personal and professional lives. Through his focus on infrastructural dynamics, Stephen is able to engage with a broad diversity of research sites. He has explored NSF-funded efforts to develop cyberinfrastructure for the geosciences, nationwide work to collaborate around and support the development of data science, and the data work and practices of social workers and local government related to homelessness in Austin. Stephen's current research explores how technology mediates and infrastructures the relationships between human and non-human life, from environmental management, to conservation work, to agriculture. For more information, please visit <https://ischool.utexas.edu/profiles/stephen-slota/>.

### Research Areas:

Knowledge Infrastructures

Information Ethics and Policy

Science Studies



# Santa Rita Suite Presentation Floor plan

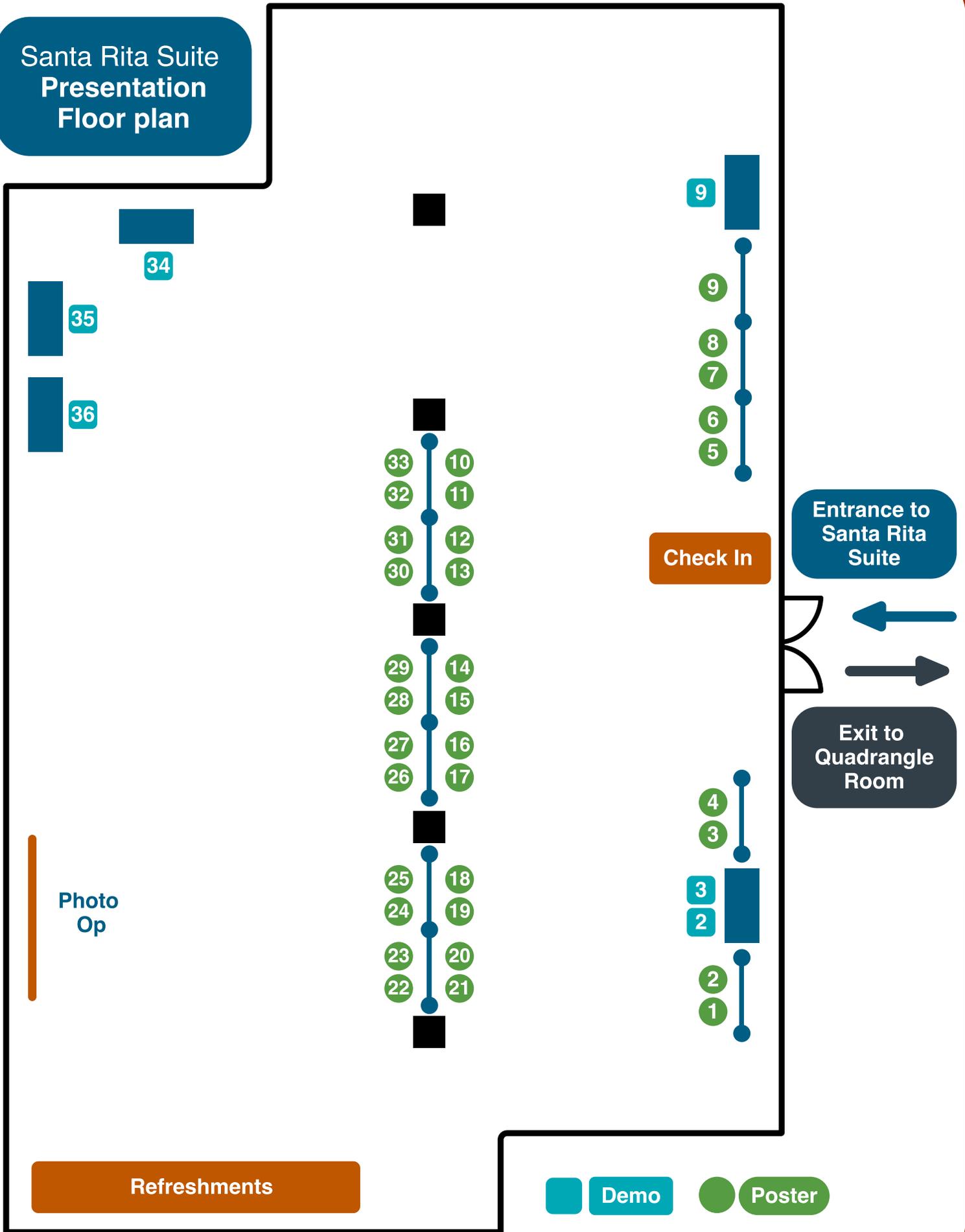


Photo  
Op

Refreshments

Check In

Entrance to  
Santa Rita  
Suite

Exit to  
Quadrangle  
Room

Demo

Poster

- 1** **How People Pursue Interest During AI-Mediated Search: An Audio Diary Study**  
Yujin Choi, School of Information; Soo Young Rieh, School of Information
- 2** **Reducing Over-Reliance on LLMs Through Design Interventions**  
Srilalitha Ravuri, School of Information; Anjana Menon, School of Information; Ishita Chitturi, School of Information; Min Kyung Lee, School of Information; Angie Zhang, School of Information
- 3** **Exploring Multidimensional Checkworthiness: Designing AI-assisted Claim Prioritization for Human Fact-checkers**  
Houjiang Liu, School of Information
- 4** **Do AI Copilots Support Learning? An Eye-Tracking Study of Attention and Difficulty**  
Gavindya Jayawardena, IX Lab, School of Information; Li Shi, IX Lab, School of Information; Dan Zhang, IX Lab, School of Information; Kai-Yu (Kelly) Chang, IX Lab, School of Information; Cecelia Albright, IX Lab, School of Information; Hsin-Yu (Joyce) Chang, IX Lab, School of Information; Pranati Kompella, IX Lab, School of Information; Jacek Gwizdka, IX Lab, School of Information
- 5** **Deceptive Patterns: What Can Really Be Done?**  
Alex Guterbock, School of Information
- 6** **User Perceptions of Transparency Cues in Instagram Recommendations: Designing for Agency**  
Manish Kumar, School of Information; Ryan Moore, School of Information
- 7** **Rodeo to Rendezvous: Preserving and Presenting Houston's History through the Digitization and Curation of KPRC-TV tapes**  
Caitlin Young, School of Information
- 8** **Infrastructures of Resistance: Community Archives as Liberatory Spatial Practice**  
Lester Li, School of Information; Angela D. R. Smith, School of Information
- 9** **Preparing for the Worst: Cultural Heritage Risk Assessment for Catastrophic Events**  
Sarah Norris, School of Information
- 10** **The Value of NBA Lineup Continuity**  
Keegan Fleigner, School of Information; Jim Fleigner, Impact Consultancy LLC.; Joshua Fink, Business of Sports Institute
- 11** **Beyond the Fine-Tuning Bottleneck: Low-Resource Brain-to-Text via Semantic Inversion**  
Christina Liu, School of Information; Akshaj Murhekar, School of Information; Abhijit Mishra, School of Information; Shounak Roychowdhury, School of Information; Jacek Gwizdka, School of Information
- 12** **An OSS-ential understanding of early career contributors**  
Hana Frluckaj, School of Information
- 13** **An Integrated Model of Data Return in Community-Based Participatory Research**  
Rui Wei, School of Information; Yan Zhang, School of Information
- 14** **Academic Librarianship and AI: Semi-Structured Interviews on Patron Support Amid Technological Change**  
Haley Triem, School of Information
- 15** **iSchool 2050: Cultural Heritage Studies as the Beating Heart Amid Technological Change**  
Haley Triem, School of Information; Qianzi Cao, School of Information; R. David Lankes, School of Information
- 16** **Understanding AI Readiness in Public Library**  
Qianzi Cao, School of Information; Jain Orr, School of Information; Haley Triem, School of Information; Kurt Lemai-Nguyen, School of Information; R. David Lankes, School of Information; Margo Gustina, University of New Mexico
- 17** **State Libraries and AI**  
R. David Lankes, School of Information
- 18** **Rethinking the Value of Multi-Agent Workflow: A Strong Single Agent Baseline**  
Jiawei Xu, School of Information; Ying Ding, School of Information
- 19** **PIE: Performance Interval Estimation for Free-Form Generation Tasks**  
Chi-Yang Hsu, School of Information; Alexander Braylan, Department of Computer Science; Yiheng Su, School of Information; Matthew Lease, School of Information; Omar Alonso, Amazon

- 20 Wrapper Boxes: Faithful Attribution of Model Predictions to Training Data**  
Yiheng Su, School of Information; Junyi Jessy Li, Department of Linguistics; Matthew Lease, School of Information
- 21 Is document remediation obsolete? A study of generative AI alternatives**  
Misha Ohri, School of Information; Erica Braverman, School of Education; Michael McQuaid, School of Information
- 22 Navigating AI Governance in Classroom: A Large-Scale Analysis of AI Use Policies in Syllabi**  
Xinyue (Sally) You, School of Information; Ray Flanagan, Department of Computer Science; Min Kyung Lee, School of Information
- 23 Generativity and Memory: GenAI as textual archive**  
Kurt Lemai-Nguyen, School of Information; Angjelin A. Hila, School of Information; Stephen C. Slota, School of Information; Elliott Hauser, School of Information
- 24 How Working Memory Shapes Cognitive Load and Emotion in Interactive Search**  
Gavindya Jayawardena, IX Lab, School of Information; Li Shi, IX Lab, School of Information; Jacek Gwizdka, IX Lab, School of Information
- 25 Revisiting "Attention" in CHIIR Research: A Review of Definitions and Measurements (2016–2025)**  
Dan Zhang, IX lab, School of Information; Gavindya Jayawardena, IX lab, School of Information; Jacek Gwizdka, IX lab, School of Information
- 26 Who Gets to Define "Fair"? Participatory Workshops for Community-Driven AI Fairness Metrics**  
Whitney Nelson, School of Information; Min Kyung Lee, School of Information
- 27 AI Didn't Start the Fire: Examining the Stack Exchange Moderator and Contributor Strike**  
Yiwei Wu, School of Information; Leah Ajmani, Department of Computer Science & Engineering; Nathan TeBlunthuis, School of Information; Hanlin Li, School of Information
- 28 "Prompting Destiny": AI Divination and Pragmatic Mysticism among Contemporary Chinese Youth**  
Shuxian Liu, School of Information
- 29 Evaluating the Effectiveness and Patient Perception of AI-Assisted Patient Intake in Healthcare**  
Syedah Haleema Shah, School of Information
- 30 Making research software visible in the scholarly graph (Softcite + OpenAlex)**  
James Howison, School of Information
- 31 Beyond Touchscreens: Rethinking Accessibility in Self-Service Food Kiosks**  
Aditi Hambarde, School of Information; Victor Lopez, School of Information
- 32 "We can't do without our language": Community Motivations and Practices for Crowdsourcing Voice Datasets**  
Riya Sinha, School of Information; Jennifer Ding, Independent Researcher; Hanlin Li, School of Information
- 33 Reaching a Self-Sustaining Equilibrium: Modeling the Critical Mass in Open Online Collaboration**  
Jianghui Li, School of Information; Nathan Teblunthuis, School of Information
- 34 Using Virtual Reality as a Therapeutic Tool for Youths' Mental Health and Wellbeing**  
Isabella Schloss, School of Information; Aarushi Gupta, UT Children's Research Center; Dr. Andrew Dillon, School of Information
- 35 MetaCues: Leveraging Metacognitive Cues to Foster Critical Engagement in Generative AI-based Information Seeking**  
Anjali Singh, School of Information; Zhitong Guan, School of Information; Karan Taneja, Georgia Institute of Technology; Soo Young Rieh, School of Information
- 36 Documentation-First Development: Claude Code & GitHub for Medical Device Software**  
Ammar Darkazanli, School of Information